



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: W-0

August 7, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 29, MALIBU
TOPANGA FORKS/TOPANGA OAKS WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT
NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED
SUPERVISORAL DISTRICT 3
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

As the governing body of the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29 Malibu:

- 1 Consider the enclosed Negative Declaration for the construction of 16- and 12-inch-diameter water mains in the unincorporated Topanga Canyon area, estimated at a cost of \$2,537,000; determine that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment; find that the Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the County; and approve the Negative Declaration.
- 2 Approve the project and authorize Public Works to carry out the project.
3. Find that the project will have no adverse effect on wildlife resources, and authorize Public Works to complete and file a Certificate of Fee Exemption for the project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This action will allow the District to construct 16- and 12-inch-diameter steel water mains to replace an existing and undersized 6-inch-diameter water main and an existing deteriorated 10-inch-diameter cross-country water main.

The Initial Study of Environmental Factors for this project indicated that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, a Negative Declaration was prepared.

Based upon the Initial Study of Environmental Factors, comments received on the Negative Declaration, and the determination that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment, the approval of the Negative Declaration is appropriate at this time.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence as it upgrades the water system to provide better services to the public in a cost-effective manner. Construction of this project will provide an increased flow for fire protection and domestic demand for the community.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact on the County's General Fund

Financing for the proposed project is available in the Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu, Accumulated Capital Outlay Fund (N33).

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), any lead agency preparing a Negative Declaration must provide a public notice within a reasonable period of time prior to certification of the Negative Declaration. To comply with this requirement, a public notice, pursuant to Section 21092 of the Public Resources Code, was published in the Topanga Record Ledger and the Malibu Times on February 20 and 27, 2003, respectively. Copies of the Negative Declaration were also sent to the agencies shown in Attachment "A."

During the public review period, we received comments from the California Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Transportation. Responses to the comments were sent in June and July 2003 and are enclosed as Attachments "B" and "C."

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

CEQA requires public agency decision-makers to document and consider environmental implications of their actions.

The Negative Declaration was written pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines of 1970, as amended (Division 13, California Public Resources Code), and the CEQA Guidelines (Division 6, California Administrative Code).

CONTRACTING PROCESS

This project will be contracted on an open-competitive bid basis. The contract will be awarded to the lowest, responsible bidder meeting the criteria established by your Board and the California Public Contract Code.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no negative impact on current County services or projects during the performance of the recommended contract.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
August 7, 2003
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CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, please return one approved copy of this letter to Public Works, Waterworks and Sewer Maintenance Division.

Respectfully submitted

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

NT:lb
BDL2139

Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
California Department of Fish and Game

ATTACHMENT “A”

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 29, MALIBU

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 16-INCH-DIAMETER WATER MAIN ON TOPANGA CANYON BOULEVARD BETWEEN OLD TOPANGA CANYON ROAD AND HILLSIDE DRIVE

1 **Location and Brief Description of Project**

The proposed project is located in the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu. The project consists of constructing approximately 9,000 linear feet of 16-inch-diameter steel water main along Topanga Canyon Boulevard from Old Topanga Canyon Road to the Topanga Oaks Pump Station at Hillside Drive, and 2,790 linear feet of parallel 12-inch-diameter water main from Old Topanga Canyon Road to Topanga School Road, then along Topanga School Road to the Topanga Forks Tank. The 16-inch-diameter pipeline will replace the existing undersized 6-inch-diameter water main. The 12-inch-diameter pipeline will replace a 10-inch-diameter cross-country line. The resulting increase in capacity will help meet the existing water demand for domestic use and fire protection in the area.

2 **Mitigation Measures Included in the Project to Avoid Potentially Significant Effects**

The initial study did not identify any possible significant impacts.

3. **Finding of No Significant Effect**

Based on the attached Initial Study, it has been determined that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

Enclosure: Initial Study

MI:lb

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INITIAL STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit "A" - Site Location

Exhibit "B" - Project Location

Exhibit "C" - Foundation and Backfill Recommendations

Exhibit "D" - Archaeological Survey

INITIAL STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 29, MALIBU

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 16-INCH-DIAMETER AND A 12-INCH-DIAMETER WATER MAIN IN TOPANGA CANYON BOULEVARD

This Initial Study was prepared by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Division 13, California Public Resources Code), and the "CEQA Guidelines" (Division 6, California Administrative Code) for Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu.

1. Project Title

Topanga Forks/Topanga Oaks Pipeline Replacement.

2. Lead Agency Name and Address

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Waterworks and Sewer Maintenance Division, 1000 South Fremont Avenue, Building A9-East, 4th Floor, Alhambra, CA 91803.

3. Contact Person and Phone Number

Ms. Nandini Tarafder (626) 300-3334.

4. Project Location

The proposed project is located in the Topanga area of the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu. The project extends along Topanga Canyon Boulevard from Old Topanga Canyon Road to Hillside Drive. Also, in Topanga School Road from Topanga Canyon Boulevard to Topanga Forks Tank as shown on Exhibits "A" and "B."

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Waterworks and Sewer Maintenance Division, 1000 South Fremont Avenue, Building A9-East, 4th Floor, Alhambra, CA 91803.

6. General Plan Designation

Rural Residential and Retail/Commercial.

7. **Zoning**

R1 (Single Family Residential), Rr (Resort, Recreational), A1 (Light Agricultural), C2-3 (Neighborhood Commercial- Commercial), and M1 (Light Manufacturing).

8. **Compatibility with General Plan**

The project is located within unincorporated area of Los Angeles County in the Topanga area. This land was included in the Malibu Local Coastal Plan which was adopted by the County of Los Angeles. The project will conform with the established community character and be compatible with the surrounding area.

9. **Description of Project**

The project consists of constructing approximately 9,000 linear feet of 16-inch-diameter steel water main to replace the existing 6-inch-diameter undersized water main along Topanga Canyon Boulevard. On the north end, the pipeline will connect to existing Topanga Oaks Pump Station at Hillside Drive. On the south end, the new water main will connect to the proposed 16-inch-diameter Topanga-Fernwood Pipeline Replacement project, scheduled for construction in Spring 2003. Also, 2,790 linear feet of parallel 12-inch-diameter water main will be installed on Old Topanga Canyon Road, then along Topanga School Road to the Topanga Forks Tank. The resulting increase in capacity will help meet the water demand for domestic use and fire protection in the area.

10. **Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting**

The proposed water main will be located within the right of way of Topanga Canyon Boulevard, State Highway 27. Portions of the 12-inch-diameter tank feedline will be located within easements along an access leading up to the tank site. This public right of way slopes down moderately toward Pacific Coast Highway. The surrounding area consists of hilly terrain with sparsely scattered residential and commercial properties. There is moderate to heavy vegetation throughout the surrounding area.

11. **Other Agencies Whose Approval is Required (and Permits Needed)**

- A) Caltrans
- B) California Coastal Commission
- C) California Fish and Game

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is either a "Potentially Significant Impact" or is "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems
<input type="checkbox"/> Geological Problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy/Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics
<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance		

Determination

(To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial study:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

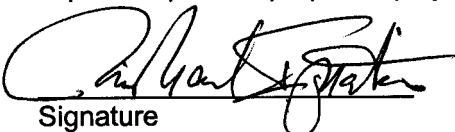
X

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a "potentially significant" or is "potentially significant unless mitigated". An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potential significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.


Signature

MICHAEL IGNATIUS
Printed Name

1/30/03
Date
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
WATERWORKS DISTRICTS
For

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Less Than Significant Impact	No Significant Impact
1. Land Use and Planning Would the proposal:				
a. Conflict with the site's general plan designation or zoning? Source(s): <i>The proposed project does not require or include any changes in the project area's general plan designation or zoning. Zoning requirements permit construction of pipelines within road right-of-way.</i>	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b. Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project? Source(s): <i>There are no conflicts between the proposed project and environmental plans or policies that have been adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over any aspect of the proposed project.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Be incompatible with existing land use(s) in the vicinity? Source(s): <i>In accordance with the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department, the proposed project does not involve any changes in existing land uses in the project area.</i>	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
d. Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g., impacts upon soils or farmlands, or impacts resulting from incompatible land uses)? Sources(s): <i>The project area does not currently support any agricultural resources or operations.</i>	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
e. Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community? Source(s): <i>The proposed project does not include the construction of any facilities that have the potential to physically affect the character of the project area's community; the proposed pipeline will be constructed below ground within the rights-of-way of Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Topanga School Road, and a short section of Hillside Drive.</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Significant Impact
	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>

2. **Population and Housing**

Would the proposal:

- a. Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections? Source(s): *The proposed project does not include the construction of any new housing, and therefore, will not increase the number of available dwelling units within the project area.*
- b. Induce substantial growth in the area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)? Source(s): *The proposed project will upgrade the existing undersized water system for the benefit of the existing residents of the area. This proposed water main will help meet the demands of the existing population in the area and will not change the growth within the area.*
- c. Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing? Source(s): *The proposed project does not include any features that will require the destruction or relocation of existing housing.*

X

3. **Geologic Problems**

Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:

- a. Fault rupture? Source(s) : *The proposed project does not include the construction of any facilities that are intended for human occupancy nor will any facilities be constructed in areas associated with geologic problems. Furthermore, seismic loading on buried pipelines is not considered to be a significant design parameter.*
- b. Seismic ground shaking? Source(s):
See 3.a. above.

X

X

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Significant Impact
c. Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction? Source(s) : <i>According to our investigation, the proposed pipeline falls within some liquefaction zones. The pipeline alignment is generally underlain by silty and clayey sands, angular rocks, and large boulders. No groundwater was encountered. It appears the potential for significant liquefaction to occur within the project area is low. Rock falls and shallow slope failures could have some impact on the buried pipeline, resulting in undefined loading on the pipe. Consequently, the proposed pipe will be designed to take into account a minimum of five (5) feet of overburden material.</i>				
d. Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard? Source(s): <i>The proposed facilities will be constructed within the limits of improved roadways. The downstream elevation of the pipeline is 700 feet above sea level. Therefore, wave-related action will have no impact. There are no reports of volcanic activity in the area.</i>				<u>X</u>
e. Landslides or mudflows? Source(s): <i>The proposed pipeline alignment crosses the toe of large landslide complexes (see Exhibit "C"). These landslide areas are situated on private property and mitigation of potential instability is not feasible. Active landslides affecting the roadbed were not observed along the alignment. We propose to use welded joints to strengthen the pipe and reduce the impact.</i>				
f. Erosion, changes in topography, or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill? Source(s): <i>The proposed project does not require nor will result in a change in the project area's topography, nor will it cause soil erosion or unstable soil conditions. Any excavations in the project area would be temporary and once the proposed facilities are in place according to LACDPW's standard contract documents, the contractor is required to return the construction site to pre-construction condition.</i>				<u>X</u>
g. Subsidence of the land? Source(s): <i>The project does not involve significant grading. No significant fill will be placed. Therefore, subsidence should not impact the project.</i>				<u>X</u>

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant	No Impact
	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>

- h. Expansive soils? Source(s): *The clayey soils excavated from the trench may have some expansion potential. However, the pipe will be bedded in sandy bedding materials, and the same excavated soils will be used for trench backfill.*

Unique geologic or physical features? Source(s)
See 3.a. above

4. **Water**

Would the proposal result in:

- a. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? Source(s): *The proposed project will not change the course or direction of the natural drainage patterns.*
- b. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding? Source(s): *See 4.a. above.*
- c. Discharge into surface water or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g., temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity)? Source(s): *See 4.a. above.*
- d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body? Source(s): *See 4.a. above.*
- e. Changes in currents, or other course or direction of water movements? Source(s): *See 4.a. above.*
- f. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of ground water recharge capability? Source(s): *This is a closed conduit pressure pipe which will not place water into the formation. Also, welded joints will allow zero leakage. Therefore, it will not have an impact on the quantity of the groundwater.*
- g. Altered direction or rate of flow of ground water? Source(s): *See 4.f. above.*
- h. Impacts to ground water quality? Source(s): *See 4.f. above.*

_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant	No Significant
	Unless Mitigation	Unless Mitigation	Unless Mitigation	Unless Mitigation
	Impact	Impact	Impact	Impact

Substantial reduction in the amount of ground water otherwise available for public water supplies?
Source(s): See 4.f. above.

5. Air Quality

Would the proposal:

- a. Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?
Source(s): *Aside from temporary, short-term impacts during construction, the proposed project will have no effect upon air quality. In addition, LACDPW's standard contract documents require construction contractors to equip all machinery and equipment with suitable air pollution control devices, and to use dust control measures such as sweeping and/or watering to control dust emissions created by construction activity, thereby further limiting potential impacts.*

_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
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- b. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants?
Source(s): See 5.a. above.

- c. Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? Source(s):
See 5.a. above.

_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
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- d. Create objectionable odors? Source(s):
See 5.a. above.

_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
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6. Transportation/Circulation

Would the proposal result in:

- a. Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion?
Source(s): *The proposed project will result in a short-term increase in the number of vehicle trips over the course of construction as a result of construction traffic; however, the impact upon traffic congestion will be considered less than significant. In addition, the construction contractor(s) will be required by LACDPW's standard contract documents, and traffic control plans prepared for this project, to provide adequate and safe traffic control measures, including adequate access to adjacent properties, that will both accommodate local traffic and ensure the safety of travelers within the project area, thereby further limiting potential impacts.*

_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
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Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Less Than Significant Impact	No Significant Impact
b. Hazards to safety from design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? Source(s): <i>The proposed project will have no effect upon street design or street usage; all streets will be returned to preconstruction condition once construction has been completed.</i>				
c. Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? Source(s): <i>See 6.a. and 6.b. above. Emergency access will be maintained at all times. The contractor will be required to notify all emergency facilities and service providers of any road closure. The impacts from the increase in traffic delay due to construction vehicles and activities are temporary and short-lived. Therefore, the impact of the proposed project on emergency access is considered less than significant.</i>			<u>X</u>	
d. Insufficient parking capacity onsite or offsite? Source(s): <i>Some parking spaces along Topanga Canyon Boulevard in the vicinity of Old Topanga Canyon Road, may be temporarily removed during construction. However, all roads and access to parking areas will be returned to preconstruction condition once construction has been completed. Therefore, there will be no long-term impact on parking capacity.</i>				
e. Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? Source(s): <i>See 6.a. and 6.b. above.</i>				<u>X</u>
f. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? Source(s): <i>See 6.a. and 6.b. above.</i>				<u>X</u>
g. Rail, waterborne, or air traffic impacts? Source(s): <i>There are no rail, waterborne, or air traffic transportation facilities or corridors within the project area.</i>				

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
	<u>Potentially</u>	<u>Significant</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>

7. **Biological Resources**

Would the proposal result in impacts to:

- a. Endangered, threatened, or rare species or their habitats (including, but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)? Source(s): *The construction of the proposed pipeline will be within the existing improved streets which do not support or endanger any locally designated species or their habitats.*
- b. Locally designated species (e.g., heritage trees)? Sources(s): *See 7.a. above*
- c. Locally designated natural communities (e.g., oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)? Sources(s): *See 7.a. above.*
- d. Wetland habitat (e.g., marsh, riparian, and vernal pool)? Sources(s): *See 7.a. above.*
- e. Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors? Source(s): *The construction and operation of the proposed pipeline will be within the existing improved streets which do not have any impact on wildlife dispersal or migration corridors.*

X

8. **Energy and Mineral Resources**

Would the proposal:

- a. Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans? Source(s): *There are no known energy conservation plans which pertain to the proposed project or project area.*
- b. Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner? Source(s): *LACDPW's standard contract documents require contractors to limit the use and waste of all materials, including non-renewable resources.*

 X

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Significant Impact
c. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the state? Source(s): <i>The proposed project will not have any impact upon future mineral extraction activities (e.g., mining, oil, production, etc.) In the project area, access for such activities will not be restricted or prevented by construction or operation of the proposed facilities.</i>				

9. Hazards

Would the proposal involve:

a. A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation)? Source(s): <i>LACDPW's standard contract documents require that construction contractors comply with safety standards specified in Title 8, California Code of Regulations, as enforced by Cal/OSHA, thereby limiting potential impacts.</i>				
b. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? Source(s): <i>Transportation corridors in the project area will remain open throughout project construction, and will not be affected by project operation once the completed facilities are into service.</i>				
c. The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard? Source(s): <i>See 9.a. above.</i>				<u>X</u>
d. Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards? Source(s): <i>No existing sources of potential health hazards exist in the project area.</i>				<u>X</u>

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant	No Impact
	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>

- e. Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable and Supporting Information Sources: brush, grass, or trees?
Source(s): *There is a slight risk of fire occurring during construction of the proposed facilities; however, the risk will be short-term and therefore, less than significant. In addition, LACDPW's standard contract documents require construction contractors to comply with safety standards specified in Title 8, California Code of Regulations, and that any equipment or machinery that poses a risk of emitting sparks or flame be equipped with an arrester, thereby, further limiting potential impacts.*

10. **Noise**

Would the proposal result in:

- a. Increases in existing noise levels? Source(s):
There may be an increase in existing noise levels in the project area over the course of construction. However, the increase will be short-term and therefore, insignificant. In addition, project specifications would require the contractor to comply with all applicable laws and noise ordinances during construction.
- b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?
Source(s): See 10.a. above.

11. **Public Services**

Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services regarding:

- a. Fire protection? Source(s): *The proposed project does not include any features or facilities that will require additional or unusual fire protection resources. The project will have a positive impact by providing adequate flows for fire protection.*
- b. Police protection? Source(s): *The proposed project does not include any features or facilities that will be occupied or that will otherwise require enhanced levels of police protection.*

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- c. Schools? Source(s): *The proposed project is not expected to significantly increase or decrease the project area's population, and will therefore not result in a greater or lesser demand for schools. There will be a short-term impact on traffic in the vicinity of Topanga School Road due to the construction of the 12-inch-diameter water main. The project will not have any permanent impacts to Topanga Elementary School.*

_____	_____	_____ <u>X</u>	
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- d. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? Source(s): *The proposed project will have no effect upon public facilities maintenance; the only public facilities that will be impacted will be improved streets, and they will be returned to pre-construction conditions once construction has been completed.*

- e. Other governmental services? Source(s): *There are no other governmental services provided to the project area.*

12. **Utilities and Service Systems**

Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

- a. Power or natural gas? Source(s): *The proposed project is not expected to result in a significant increase or decrease in the project area's population, and will therefore, not result in greater or lesser demand for public utilities. A utility search has been conducted to identify the existing utility lines along the project alignment. No utility relocations are anticipated, therefore, there will be no impact on utilities.*

X

- b. Communications systems? Source(s): *See 12.a. above.*

X

- c. Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities? Source(s): *Construction and operation of the proposed facilities will not interfere with the operation of any existing water treatment or distribution facilities. Construction and operation of the proposed project will improve (and therefore, have a beneficial impact upon) water supply and distribution facilities, and no adverse impacts upon water treatment and distribution facilities are anticipated.*

_____	_____	_____ <u>X</u>	
-------	-------	----------------	--

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Significant Impact
--------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------

d. Sewer or septic tank? Source(s): *Construction of the proposed facilities will not have any impact upon sewer and septic tank systems.*

e. Storm water drainage? Source(s):
See Section 4.a. above.

f. Solid waste disposal? Source(s):
See 12.a. above.

X

g. Local or regional water supplies? Source(s):
The existing water main is undersized. This proposed project will meet the existing domestic and fire requirements as determined by the Waterworks District and the Fire Department. Therefore, the proposed project will have a beneficial impact upon the area's water supply.

13. **Aesthetics** Would the proposal:

a. Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway?
Source(s): *The proposed pipeline will be constructed below ground within the right-of-way of Topanga Canyon Blvd. and adjacent roads. In addition, there will be a few above ground facilities (e.g., fire hydrants, flush-outs and air release valves) which will be relatively small and unobtrusive. All above ground facilities and structures will be painted with a gloss enamel paint for identification and operational purposes and will have a minimum impact on the surrounding aesthetic environment.*

_____ X

b. Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect? Source(s): *See 13.a. above.*

_____ X

c. Create light or glare? Source(s): *The proposed project does not include any facilities that generate light or glare; the pipelines will be located below ground.*

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

Potentially Significant Impact	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------

14. **Cultural Resources**

Would the proposal:

- a. Disturb archaeological resources? Source(s):
A Phase I Archaeological Survey was prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc., in December 2000 (See Exhibit "D"). According to Tetra Tech, Inc.'s report, installation of the new pipeline within the right-of-way of Topanga Canyon Boulevard should have no impact on cultural resources and additional archaeological investigations will not be needed. However, a qualified archaeologist will monitor all earth-moving activities during construction albeit, recorder archaeological sites are beyond the 0.25 mile buffer.

- b. Disturb paleontological resources? Source(s):
See 14.a. above.

- c. Affect historical resources? Source(s):
See 14.a. above.

- d. Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? Source(s): *See 14.a. above.*

- e. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? Sources(s):
See 14.a. above.

15. **Recreation**

Would the proposal:

- a. Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities?
 Source(s): *The proposed facilities will not increase the demand for additional recreational facilities.*
- b. Affect existing recreational opportunities?
 Source(s): *The proposed facilities will not be constructed upon or near any existing recreational facilities, including parks, and thus, will not impact recreational opportunities.*

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Significant Impact
--------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------

16. **Mandatory Findings of Significance**

- a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? Source(s): *Construction of the proposed pipeline will be within the existing improved streets which do not support or endanger any locally designated species or their habitats.*
- b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? Source(s): *The proposed project's potential effects will be consistent throughout the useful life of the facilities to be constructed, and are therefore not expected to achieve short-term environmental goals that ultimately harm long-term environmental goals.*
- c. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable ("cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? Source(s): *The proposed project will not result in any environmental cumulative impacts in connection with known past, present, or future projects.*
- d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? Source(s): *The proposed project does not include any components or elements that will have any adverse effects upon human beings.*

B. EARLIER ANALYSIS

Earlier analysis may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, one or more effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration [Section 15063(c)(3)(D)]. In this case, discussion should identify the following:

- a. Earlier analysis used. Identify earlier analysis and state where they are available for review.

N/A

- b. Impacts adequately addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

N/A

- c. Mitigation measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated," describe on attached sheets the mitigation measures that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

N/A

MI:lb

H:\WSHOME\Briggs\2002\WW 2002\General\Topanga OaksND.WPD

ATTACHMENT “B”



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
www.ladpw.org

JAMES A. NOYES, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

June 11, 2003

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: W-0

Mr. C. F. Raysbrook, Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Game
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Dear Mr. Raysbrook:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 29, MALIBU TOPANGA FORKS/TOPANGA OAKS WATER MAIN

This is in response to your March 5, 2003, letter (copy enclosed) regarding the review of our negative declaration for the subject project.

We appreciate your recommendations to avoid the disturbance of the Topanga Creek bridge between March 1 and September 15, 2004, because of the bats' breeding season. We plan to schedule the construction of the bridge-crossing portion of the project outside the dates of the bats' breeding season. However, we intend to incorporate your comments into the project's construction contract, and if it becomes unavoidable to construct the bridge-crossing portion of the pipeline between March 1 and September 15, 2004, we will have a qualified biologist survey the subject area prior to any bridge-crossing work.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Nandini Tarafder at (626) 300-3334.

Very truly yours,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works



MANUEL DEL REAL

Assistant Deputy Director
Waterworks and Sewer Maintenance Division

NT:lb
WW3392

Enc.



State of California - The Resources Agency

GRAY DAVIS, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201



March 5, 2003

Ms. Nandini Tarafder
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Dear Ms. Tarafder:

**Negative Declaration for
16-Inch Diameter Water Main
Los Angeles County**

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Draft Initial Study (IS) and Draft Negative Declaration (ND) for the above-referenced project, relative to impacts to biological resources. The proposed project involves the construction of approximately 9,000 linear feet of 16-inch diameter water main along Topanga Canyon Boulevard from Old Topanga Canyon Road to the Topanga Oaks Pump Station at Hillside Drive, and 2,790 linear feet of parallel 12-inch diameter water main from Old Topanga Canyon Road to Topanga School Road, continuing up Topanga School Road to the Topanga Forks Tank. The project is located in the Santa Monica Mountains in Topanga Canyon. The pipeline construction will be conducted within existing improved streets and will cross Topanga Creek (Creek) at an existing bridge to Topanga School Road. No impacts to the bed, bank, or channel of the Creek and no debris entering the Creek from the proposed project are anticipated due to engineering measures to avoid such impact.

The following statements and comments have been prepared pursuant to the Department's authority as Trustee Agency with jurisdiction over natural resources affected by the project (CEQA Section 15386) and pursuant to our authority as a Responsible Agency under CEQA Section 15381 over those aspects of the proposed project that come under the purview of the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code Section 2050 et seq) and Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq.:

Impacts to Biological Resources

Protection of Native Birds - The proposed project will cross Topanga Creek at or near an existing bridge and therefore has the potential to directly impact nesting native bird species which may use the bridge structure as nesting habitat. Migratory nongame native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (50 C.F.R. Section 10.13). Sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3513 of the California Fish and

Ms. Nandini Tarafder
March 5, 2003
Page 2

Game Code prohibit take of all birds and their active nests including raptors and other migratory nongame birds (as listed under the Federal MBTA).

- a. Proposed project activities (including disturbances to native and non-native vegetation, structures and substrates) should take place outside of the breeding bird season which generally runs from March 1- August 31 (as early as February 1 for raptors) to avoid take (including disturbances which would cause abandonment of active nests containing eggs and/or young). Take means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill (Fish and Game Code Section 86).
 - b. If Project activities cannot feasibly avoid the breeding bird season, the Department recommends that a qualified biologist survey all potential nesting habitat within the project site for nesting birds. Surveys should begin no later than June 1. Surveys should be conducted every 7 days for 6 weeks until July 1. If no nesting birds are observed site preparation and construction activities may begin. If an active bird nest is located, the nest site should be fenced a minimum of 200 feet (500 feet for raptors) in all directions, and this area should not be disturbed until the nest becomes inactive, is vacated and juveniles have fledged and when there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting.
 - c. Limits of construction to avoid a nest should be established in the field with flagging and stakes or construction fencing. Construction personnel should be instructed on the sensitivity of the area. The project proponent should record the results of the recommended protective measures described above to document compliance with applicable State and Federal laws pertaining to the protection of native birds.
2. Impacts to Bats – Project work on or near the Topanga Creek bridge may result in take and/or disturbances to bats which may reside within the bridge structures.
- a. Bats are considered non-game mammals and are afforded protection by state law from take and/or harassment, (Fish and Game Code Section 4150, California Code of Regulations, Section 251.1). Several bat species are also considered California Species of Special Concern (CSC) and meet the CEQA definition of rare, threatened or endangered species (CEQA Guidelines 15065). Take of CSC could require a mandatory finding of significance by the Lead Agency, (CEQA Guidelines 15085).
 - b. The Department recommends avoiding disturbances to bridge structures between March 1 and September 15 to avoid the breeding season for bats unless preconstruction surveys are conducted by a qualified biologist and no bat roosts or nurseries are found within the project area.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment. Please address the above concerns in the environmental document for the proposed project.

Ms. Nandini Tarafder
March 5, 2003
Page 3

Questions regarding this letter and further coordination on these issues should be directed to Mr. Scott Harris, Associate Wildlife Biologist at (818) 360-8140.

Sincerely,


Mr. C.F. Raysbrook
Regional Manager

cc: Ms. Morgan Wehtje
Mr. Scott Harris
Department of Fish and Game
Mr. Scott Morgan
State Clearinghouse

sph

ATTACHMENT “C”



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

JAMES A. NOYES, Director

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
www.ladpw.org

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

July 15, 2003

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: W-0

Mr. Stephen J. Buswell
Department of Transportation
District 7, Regional Planning
IGR/CEQA Branch
120 South Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Buswell:

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 29, MALIBU
TOPANGA FORKS/TOPANGA OAKS PIPELINE REPLACEMENT
IGR/CEQA NO. 030351NY**


This is in response to your March 19, 2003, letter (copy enclosed) regarding your review of our Negative Declaration of the subject project.

Thank you for your comments regarding the need to discharge clean run-off water during construction and the requirement to obtain a Caltrans' Encroachment Permit to operate within the state right-of-way. Our standard contract document requires the contractor to implement Best Management Practices for storm water pollution control and to obtain the Caltrans' Transportation Permit, if needed. Also, our traffic control consultant is currently working with your agency's Permit Office to obtain an Encroachment Permit.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Nandini Tarafder at (626) 300-3334.

Very truly yours,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works


MANUEL DEL REAL
Assistant Deputy Director
Waterworks and Sewer Maintenance Division

NT:lb
WW3435

Enc.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 7, REGIONAL PLANNING
IGR/CEQA BRANCH
120 SO. SPRING ST.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 897-6536
FAX (213) 897-1337
E-Mail: NersesYerjanian@dot.ca.gov



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

Ms. Nanadini Tarafder
Department of Public Works
and Sewer Maint. Division
County of Los Angeles
1000 S. Fremont Ave.
Alhambra, CA. 91803

RE: IGR/CEQA # 030351NY
Topanga Oaks Pipeline Replacement
Vic. LA/27/4.31
SCH# 2003031046

March 19, 2003

Dear Ms. Tarafder:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the proposed replacement of Topanga Oaks Pipeline in the County of Los Angeles.

Based on our evaluation of the information received, this project should receive encroachment permit review by Caltrans. We recommend that the City, at its earliest convenience, submit six (6) complete sets of plans including two (2) sets of all engineering documents to the Caltrans Permits Office for review.

Storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Please be mindful of your need to discharge clean run-off water. An Encroachment Permit from the Department of Transportation may be needed for this project. Any encroachment into, on or over State right-of-way needs a Department Encroachment Permit. Please prepare and submit engineering plans including drainage plans, for our review so we can determine whether an encroachment exists. *We accept encroachment fees*

We would like to remind you that any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will require a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please call the Project Engineer/Coordinator Mr. Yerjanian at (213) 897-6536 and refer to IGR/CEQA # 030351NY.

Sincerely,


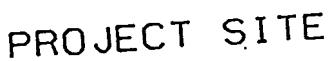
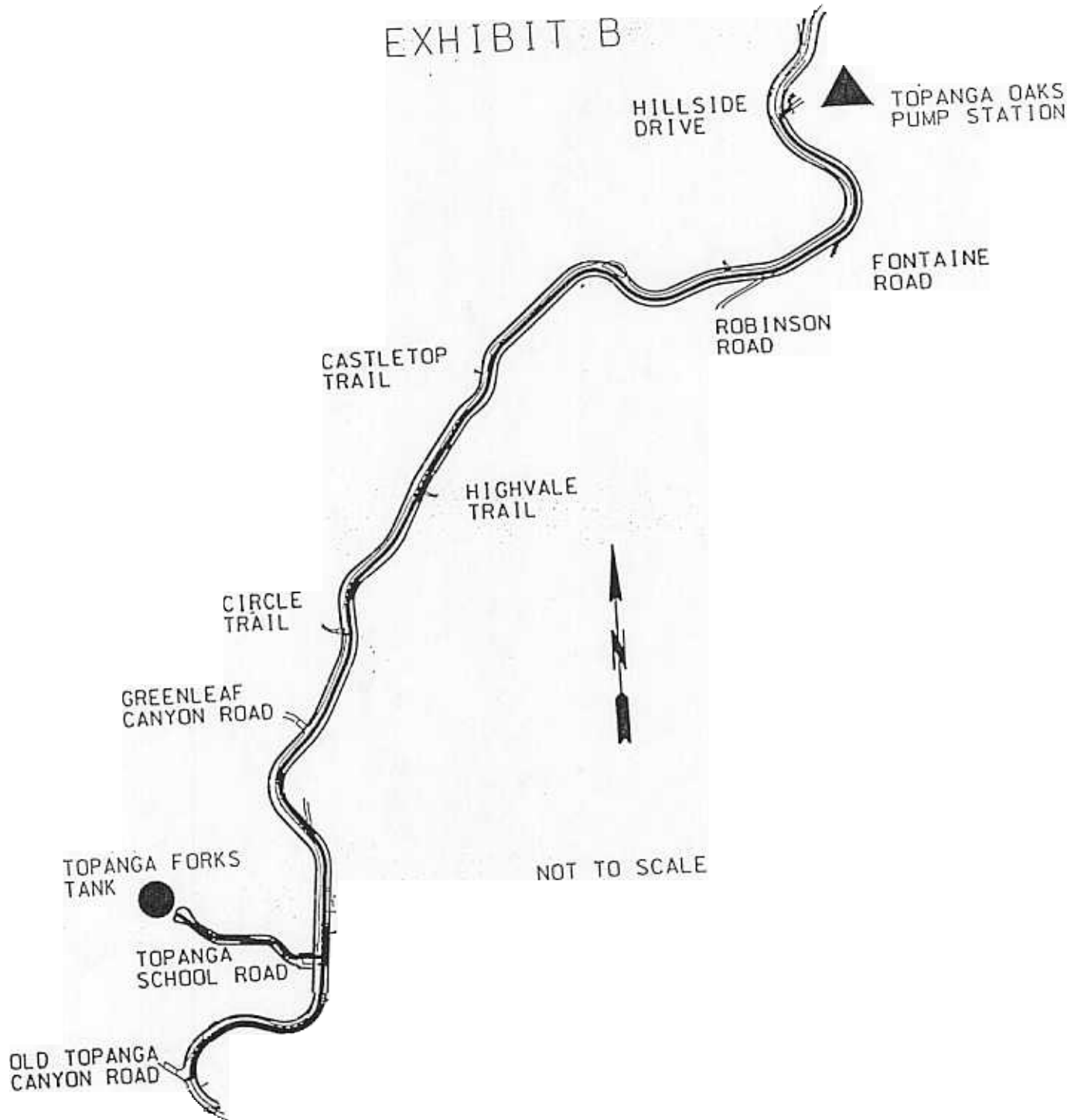

STEPHEN J. BUSWELL
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief
Transportation Planning Office
Caltrans, District 7

EXHIBIT A



VICINITY MAP

EXHIBIT B



May 7, 2001

TO: Shawn Danaei
Waterworks and Sewer Maintenance Division

Attention Ali Dana

FROM: Rossana G. D'Antonio RGD.
Land Development Division

**TOPANGA FORKS / TOPANGA OAKS PIPELINE REPLACEMENT
FOUNDATION AND BACKFILL RECOMMENDATIONS**

As requested, we conducted a subsurface investigation for foundation and backfill recommendations for the subject project.

Introduction

The subsurface investigation consisted of five borings drilled to a maximum depth of eleven feet. Four of the borings were drilled on the outboard edge of the Topanga Canyon Road and one was drilled on the inboard edge of the road. In order to minimize traffic hazards, all borings were excavated within road shoulders.

The topography along the alignment consists of canyons and gullies with sandstone-bedrock outcrops protruding throughout Topanga Canyon Road. Excavation conditions can be expected to be difficult where rock is encountered.

The proposed waterline alignment crosses the toe of large landslide complexes (see Figure 1). These landslides are situated on private property and mitigation of potential instability is not feasible. Active landslides affecting the roadbed were not observed along the alignment.

Soil Information

- 1 The soil types encountered in the exploration are predominantly silty sands with a large amount of oversized rocks in a dense condition.
2. No groundwater was encountered during the exploration. Weathered bedrock was encountered in Boring B-5.
3. Caving was encountered in Borings B-1 and B-3.
4. Project excavation materials are suitable for use as backfill.

Shawn Danaei
Waterworks and Sewer Maintenance Division
Page 2

Recommendations

1. Attached are the open trench operations specifications to be included in the Special Provisions of the project specifications.
2. For structural design purposes, use a soil unit weight of 120 pcf.
3. All backfill shall be compacted to a minimum relative compaction of 90 percent of the maximum dry density as determined by the ASTM Standard D1557.
4. Submit the preliminary and final design plans and specifications to this Division for review and approval.
5. The completed logs-of-borings sheet is attached for your use. The logs-of-borings sheet should be included in the final plans.

DISCUSSION

This report provides foundation and backfill recommendations for design and construction of the proposed waterline only. The proposed waterline alignment, however, crosses the toe of large landslide complexes. The stability of these landslide complexes has not been investigated; and mitigation of these landslide complexes is beyond the scope of this report.

Limitations

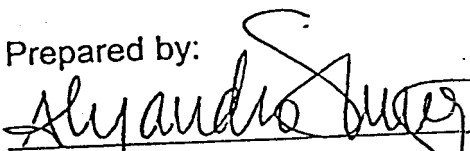
This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for the specific site discussed herein. This report should not be considered transferrable to other sites or projects.

In the event that any modification in the design, configuration, or use of the site are implemented, the conclusions and recommendations contained in this report may no longer be valid.

This study was conducted according to generally accepted geotechnical engineering practice for projects of this magnitude. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations in this report are based on the field investigation combined with an extrapolation of soil conditions beyond the boring locations. Our conclusions and recommendations are professional opinions and are not meant to be a control of nature; therefore, no warranty is herein expressed or implied.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Alejandro Nunez at Extension 3873.

Prepared by:


Alejandro Nunez
Supervising Civil Engineer I



AN:

LD-6/f-b:topanga forks

Attach.

Shawn Danaei
Waterworks and Sewer Maintenance Division
Page 4

References

1. Department Drawings for the subject project, unnumbered, undated.
2. Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, 1994 Edition.
3. Additions and Amendments to the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, 1994 Edition.
4. Barclays California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Register 93, No. 11; March 12, 1993.

306-1 OPEN TRENCH OPERATIONS

306-1.1 Trench Excavation

306-1.1.6 Bracing Excavations

(a) General

Add the following before the first paragraph:

The minimum "Kw" value for use in the design of excavation shoring is 30 pcf.

The recommended "Kw" value is predicated on the water table being below the bottom of the excavation. For a water table above the bottom of the excavation, contact this Department for a revised "Kw" value.

(b) Vertical Shores for Supporting Trench Excavations

The parameter for determining the minimum penetration for vertical shores:

Case No. 2 A = 79 pcf

The recommended shoring parameters are predicated on the water table being below the bottom of the vertical shores. For a water table above the bottom of the vertical shores, contact this Department for revised shoring parameters

The soils encountered in the borings may be classified as Type C as defined in the California Code of Regulation Title 8, § 1540.

306-1.3 Backfill and Densification

306-1.3.1 General

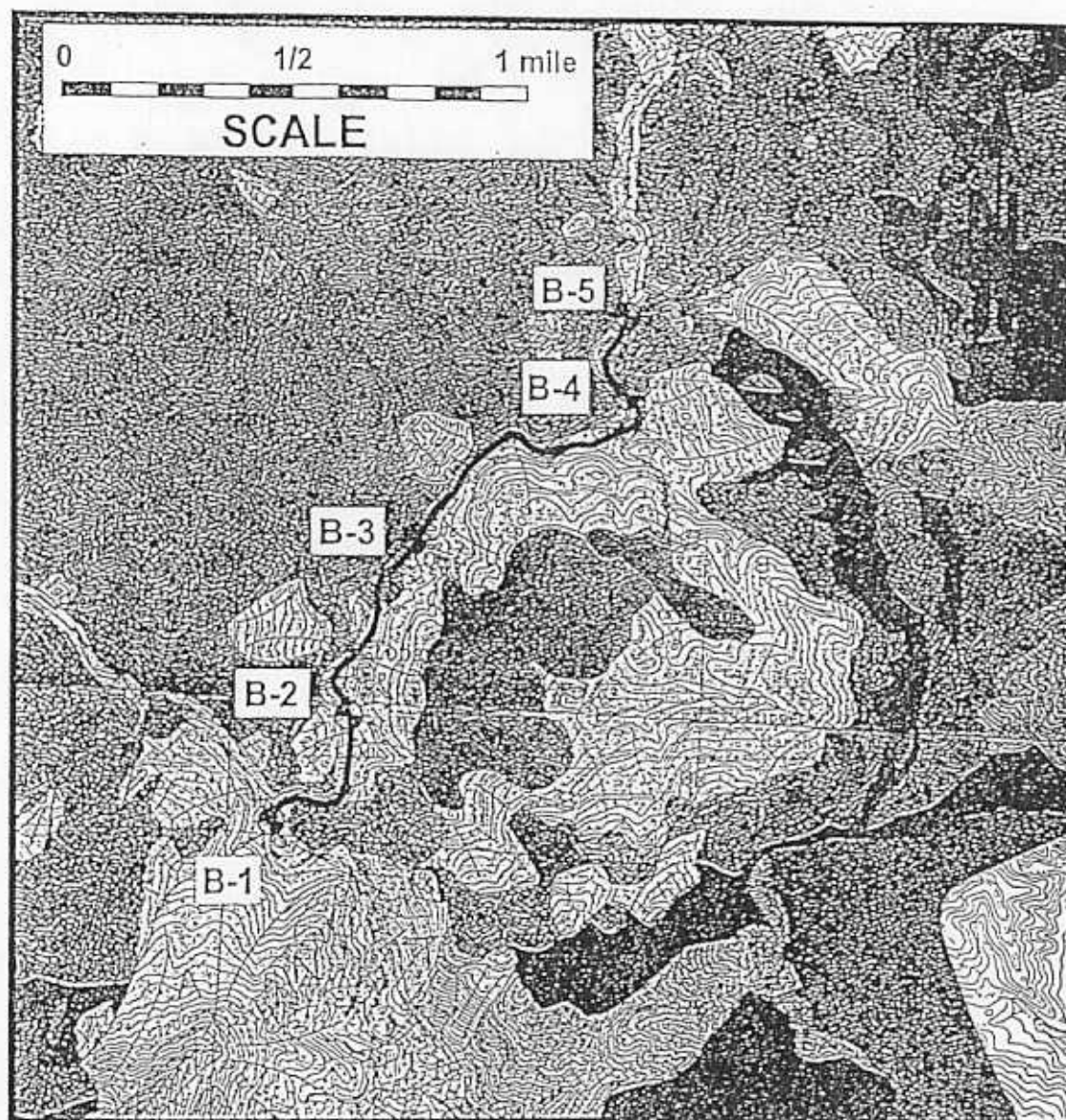
Add the following:

The project excavation material is suitable for use as backfill.

All backfill shall be compacted to a minimum relative compaction of 90 percent of the maximum dry density.

306-1.3.2 Mechanically Compacted Backfill

Mechanical compaction methods shall not include a sheepsfoot wheel, within the top three feet of the waterline.



LEGEND



B-1

LOCATION OF BORING

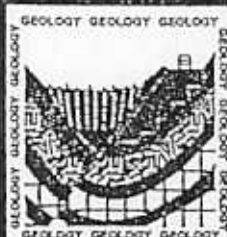


LANDSLIDES



PROPOSED WATERLINE ALIGNMENT

MODIFIED FROM: USGS MAP I-1146, 1980, GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE
EAST-CENTRAL SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS,
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



LAND DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

LANDSLIDE AND
BORING LOCATION MAP
TOPANGA CANYON
WATERLINE

Digitized by
R.A. Larson

5/02/01

Figure 1

EXHIBIT "D"

**Archaeological Survey Along
Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Hillside Drive
Support of the Topanga Forks/Topanga Oaks
Pipeline Replacement Project
Los Angeles County, California**

Prepared For:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Architectural Engineering Division
Alhambra, California



Prepared By:

Tetra Tech, Inc.
348 West Hospitality Lane, Suite 300
San Bernardino, California 92408-3216

December 2000

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ALONG
TOPANGA CANYON BOULEVARD AND
HILLSIDE DRIVE IN SUPPORT OF THE
TOPANGA FORKS / TOPANGA OAKS
PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT,
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Architectural Engineering Division
900 South Fremont Avenue, 8th Floor
Alhambra, California 91803-1331

Prepared by

Tetra Tech, Inc.
348 West Hospitality Lane, Suite 300
San Bernardino, California 92408-3216

Certification by California Archaeologist:

Fred E. Budinger, Jr.
Archaeologist
Tetra Tech, Inc.

December 2000

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Appendix

A SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

FIGURES

Figure

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the authorization of the Los Angeles County Public Works Department, Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) conducted an archaeological survey along road rights-of-way along a portion of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Hillside Drive in Topanga Canyon, Los Angeles County, California in support of the Topanga Forks/ Topanga Oaks Pipeline Replacement. The purpose of the survey was to identify the presence or likely presence of cultural resources along the road right-of-ways. Cultural resources include prehistoric sites and isolates, historic sites and isolates (which are older than 45 years), and sites having significance to Native American cultural groups. A cultural resources record check conducted at the appropriate Archaeological Information Center of the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The cultural resources records check indicated that neither the proposed project nor any properties within 0.25-mile of the subject corridor are known to contain significant cultural resources. Specifically, no sites either listed or deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historic Resources are located on or within 0.25-mile of the subject corridor.

No prehistoric, historic, or Native American traditional concern sites or isolated finds were identified during the pedestrian archaeological survey of the Topanga Forks/Topanga Oaks Pipeline Replacement Project corridor. Nonetheless, because several prehistoric archaeological sites have been recorded in the vicinity (albeit beyond the 0.25-mile buffer), Tetra Tech recommends that a qualified archaeologist monitor any earthmoving activities in the project corridor. If prehistoric or historic artifacts (over 45 years in age) are encountered during land modification, activities in the immediate area of the finds shall be halted and the qualified archaeologist shall assess the find(s), determine its/their significance, and make recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act. If human remains are encountered on the property, then the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office must be contacted within 24 hours of the find, and all work shall be halted until a clearance is given by that office and other involved agencies.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose, scope, limitations, and exceptions of this Archaeological Survey are discussed below. The methodology and information sources utilized are outlined.

1.1 PURPOSE

As defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) it is necessary to evaluate a parcel of commercial real estate with respect to the presence of cultural resources prior to the initiations of actions that have the potential to impact such land. Cultural resources include prehistoric sites and isolates, historic sites and isolates (which are older than 45 years), and sites having significance to Native American cultural groups.

An Archaeological Survey evaluates whether a property has, or is in the immediate vicinity of, cultural resources through the use of a surface reconnaissance by a qualified professional archaeologist and the evaluation of archival records maintained by an Archaeological Information Center for the appropriate county or region.

1.2 SCOPE OF SERVICES

This archaeological survey was performed by Tetra Tech on behalf of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works in accordance with the basic requirements outlined in CEQA and a defined scope of work and included the following:

Documentary research regarding cultural resources sites known to exist at the proposed project site and its immediate vicinity. This documentary research was accomplished through a cultural resources records check conducted by the South Central Coastal Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) located at the University of California, Los Angeles.

A visual site reconnaissance (site surface survey) by a professional qualified California archaeologist, Mr. Fred E. Budinger, Jr. Mr. Budinger has a graduate degree (archaeology emphasis), 26 years of experience in California archaeology and cultural resources management and meets the professional requirements to direct cultural resources investigations as specified, for example, in *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines*. Site reconnaissance was limited to survey of the surface; no archaeological test excavations were conducted. Site photographs are included as Appendix A of this report.

Preparation of this report presenting the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the archaeological survey of the proposed project corridor with regard to cultural resources.

1.3 LIMITATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS OF ASSESSMENT

Conclusions and recommendations are based on visual observations and data review as defined in the scope of the contract. They are relevant to the date of site reconnaissance and shall not be construed as necessarily representative of conditions at subsequent times. The opinions expressed are based on experience with similar studies and information derived during the overall investigation. If additional information becomes available, Tetra Tech requests the opportunity to review such information and modify opinions, if necessary.

The visual observations made by Tetra Tech were limited to the non-pavement surface areas of the right-of-way along each side of Hillside Drive from the Topanga Oaks Reservoir tank to its intersection with Topanga Canyon Boulevard and along Topanga Boulevard between its intersection with Hillside Drive and its intersection with Old Topanga Road. Subsurface explorations, such as through the excavation of archaeological shovel test probes (STPs) or other types of systematic subsurface exposures were not within the scope of this study. Tetra Tech conducted this archaeological survey of the subject corridor expressly and solely for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. Any reliance upon the information, conclusions, or recommendations contained in this report for purposes other than stated in the scope of services shall be the sole liability of the party undertaking such use.

This report was compiled based partially on information supplied to Tetra Tech and visual observations made at the property. The conclusions and recommendations herein are based solely on the information Tetra Tech obtained in compiling the report. Tetra Tech makes no warranty as to the accuracy of statements made by others which may be contained in the report, nor are any other warranties or guarantees, expressed or implied, included or intended by the report except that it has been prepared in accordance with the current generally accepted practices and standards consistent with the level of care and skill exercised under similar circumstances by other professional archaeologists performing the same or similar services. None of the work performed hereunder shall constitute or be represented as a legal opinion of any kind or nature, but shall be a representation of findings of fact from records examined.

1.4 INFORMATION SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY USED

This report was prepared in accordance with CEQA and the guidelines for the implementation of the California Register of Historical Resources (Cal Register) criteria developed by the California State Office of Historic Preservation for evaluation of historical properties. Note that the term historical properties is understood to include both prehistoric and historic-era cultural resources.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The location, setting, description (structures, roads, and other improvements), and land use of the site and adjacent areas are described below.

2.1 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The project area for the archaeological survey California conducted in support of the Topanga Forks/Topanga Oaks Pipeline Replacement Project consisted of 2.27 miles (3.65 kilometers) of rights-of-way along a portion of Topanga Canyon Boulevard (from its intersection with Old Topanga Road up to its intersection with Hillside Drive; 1.7 mi. [2.74 km]) and Hillside Drive (from its intersection with Topanga Canyon Boulevard up to the Topanga Oaks Reservoir tank; 0.57 mi. [914 m]) in Topanga Canyon, Los Angeles County, California (Figures 1 and 2). Photographs of selected portions of the survey corridor are presented in Appendix A.

PHYSICAL SETTING

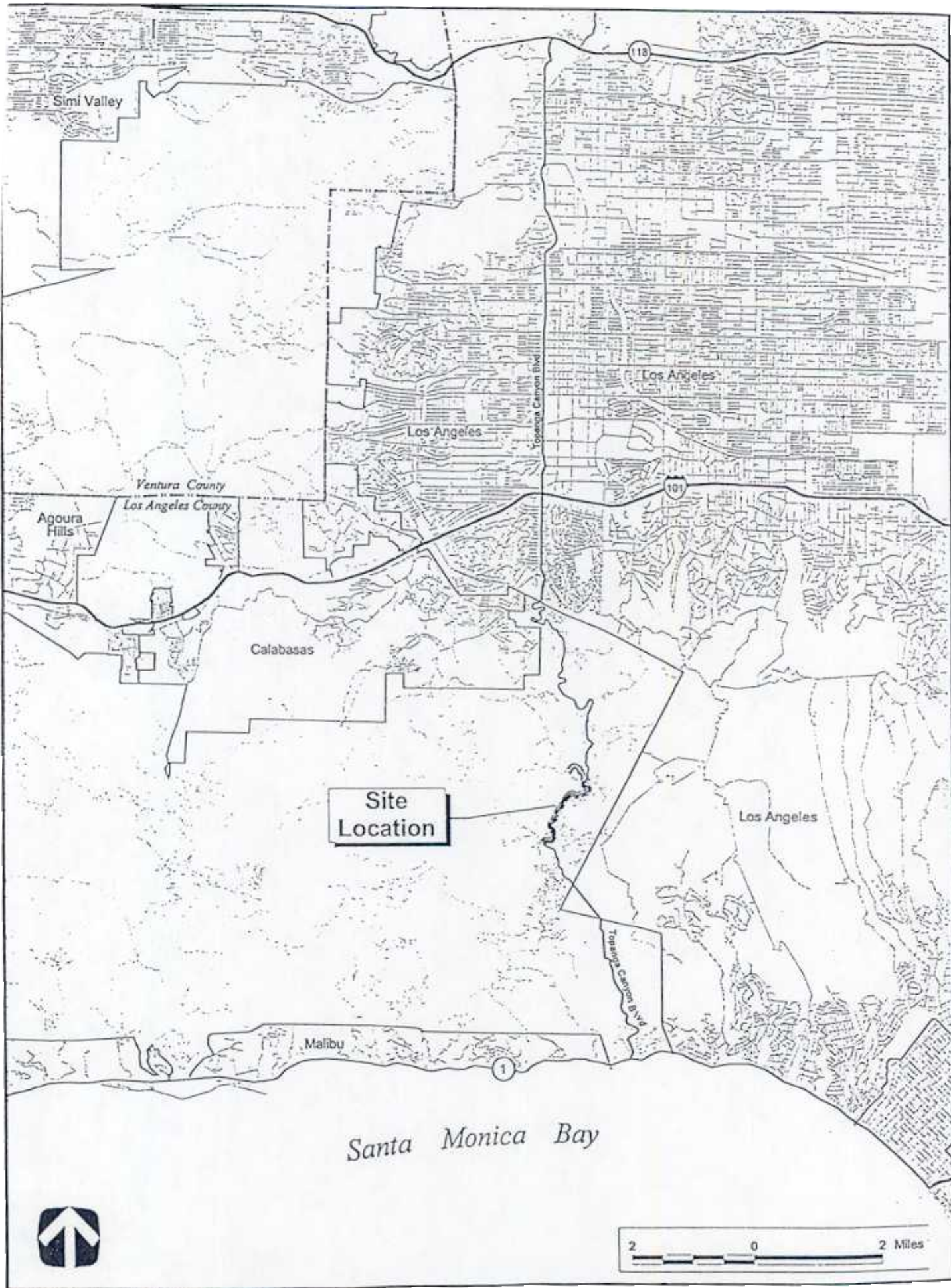
The archaeological survey corridor as described above is located in Sections 6 and 7 of Township 1 South, Range 16 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. (Figure 2). The proposed project area is depicted on the Topanga, California quadrangle, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic series (1952; photorevised 1981). Elevations along the survey corridor range from approximately 800 to 1300 feet above mean sea level.

The sinuous survey corridor is contained within an area that has the following bounding coordinates:

- Northern-most point: 34 degrees, 6 minutes, 29.4 seconds north latitude;
- Southern-most point: 34 degrees, 5 minutes, 14.8 seconds north latitude;
- Western-most point: 118 degrees, 36 minutes, 12.7 seconds north latitude; and
- Eastern-most point: 118 degrees, 35 minutes, 27.1 seconds north latitude.

In terms of Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates these points are as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Northern-most Point | Zone | 7774173 meters Northing; |
| • Southern-most Point | Zone 11 | 3773077 meters Northing; |
| Western-most Point | Zone 11 | 352154 meters Easting; and |
| Eastern-most Point | Zone | 353327 meters Easting; |



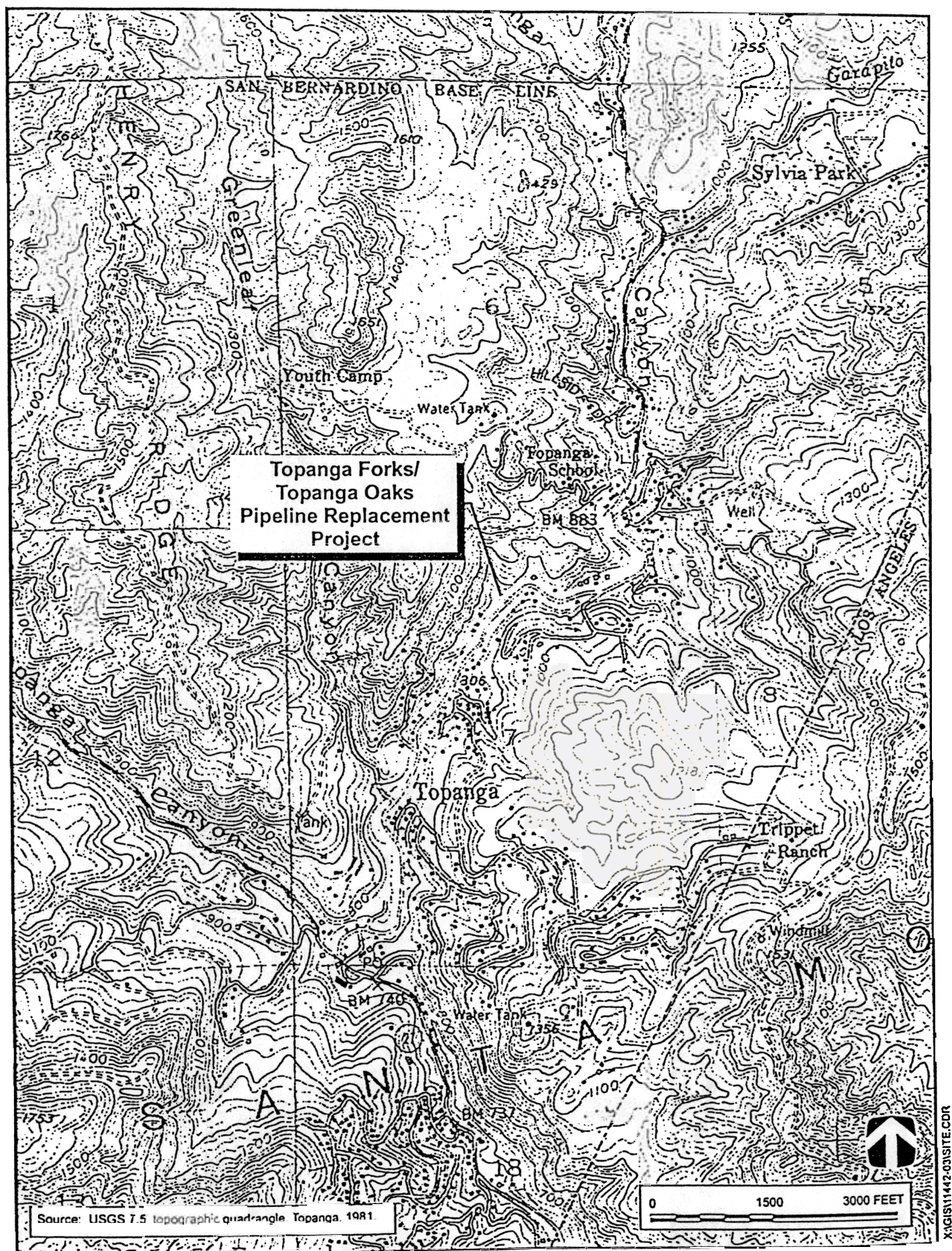


Figure 2 Site Map Depicting the Topanga Forks/Topanga Oaks Pipeline Replacement Project Archaeological Survey Corridor

2.3 CURRENT USES OF THE SITE

The road rights-of-way along portions of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Hillside Drive for the Topanga Forks/Topanga Oaks Pipeline Replacement vary in width and usage. In places the vacant portion of a right-of-way is as narrow as 3 feet. Retaining walls encroach in numerous locations. As described below, most of the rights-of-way in question are bordered by single-family residential structure. Small commercial enterprises line the road in the vicinity of the small community of Topanga. Vacant portions of right-of-way are often littered with miscellaneous trash, including items of paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum, and wood.

2.4 CURRENT USES OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES

Land use in areas adjacent to the survey area is predominantly residential. Commercial establishments and a school are located near the small community of Topanga.

3.0 ON-SITE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

An archaeological survey of rights-of-ways along the selected portions of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Hillside Drive were conducted by a qualified professional California archaeologist. No prehistoric, historic, or traditional cultural sites of significance to Native Americans were observed or recorded.

4.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES RECORDS SEARCH

A cultural resource records check conducted by the South Central Coastal Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). This records check indicated that no historic properties listed on (or eligible for) the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources are within 0.25-mile San Martin Site. The records check indicated that the proposed project area has a possibility of containing unrecorded archaeological sites and recommended study prior to the commencement of project activities.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Site reconnaissance and review of a cultural resource records check allow the following conclusions and recommendations regarding the rights-of-ways along the selected portions of Topanga Canyon Boulevard

and Hillside Drive, which comprise the project study corridor for the Site. The scope of this study did not include subsurface archaeological testing.

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

A cultural resources records check conducted by the South Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) indicated that no historic properties listed on (or eligible for) the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources are within 0.25-mile San Martin Site. The records check indicated that the proposed project area has a possibility of containing unrecorded archaeological sites and recommended study prior to the commencement of project activities. ✕

An archaeological survey of rights-of-way along selected portions of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Hillside Drive in the project corridor of the Topanga Forks/ Topanga Oaks Pipeline Replacement Project conducted by a qualified professional California archaeologist detected no cultural resources. Specifically, no prehistoric, historic, or traditional cultural sites of significance to Native Americans were observed or recorded.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

No prehistoric, historic, or Native American traditional concern sites or isolated finds were identified during the pedestrian archaeological survey of the Topanga Forks/Topanga Oaks Pipeline Replacement Project corridor. Nonetheless, because several prehistoric archaeological sites have been recorded in the vicinity (albeit beyond the 0.25-mile buffer), Tetra Tech recommends that a qualified archaeologist monitor any earthmoving activities in the project corridor. If prehistoric or historic artifacts (over 45 years in age) are encountered during land modification, activities in the immediate area of the finds shall be halted and the qualified archaeologist shall assess the find(s), determine its/their significance, and make recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act. If human remains are encountered on the property, then the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office must be contacted within 24 hours of the find, and all work shall be halted until a clearance is given by that office and other involved agencies. ✕

6.0 REFERENCE

U.S. Geological Survey.

1981. *Topanga, Calif. Quadrangle*. U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Series, 1952, Photorevised 1981. Scale 1:24,000.

APPENDIX A

Site Photographs

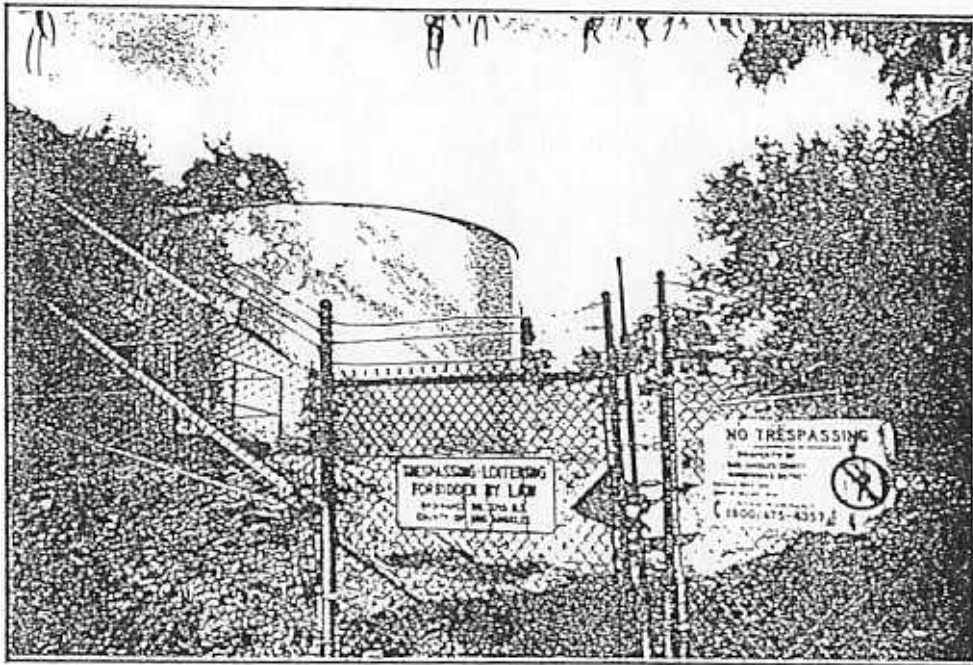


Photo 1 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the north-northwest from UTM location Zone 11, 352678 meters Easting, 3775153 meters Northing showing the Topanga Oaks Reservoir.



Photo 2 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the east showing typical land use in and near the right-of-way along Hillside Drive.

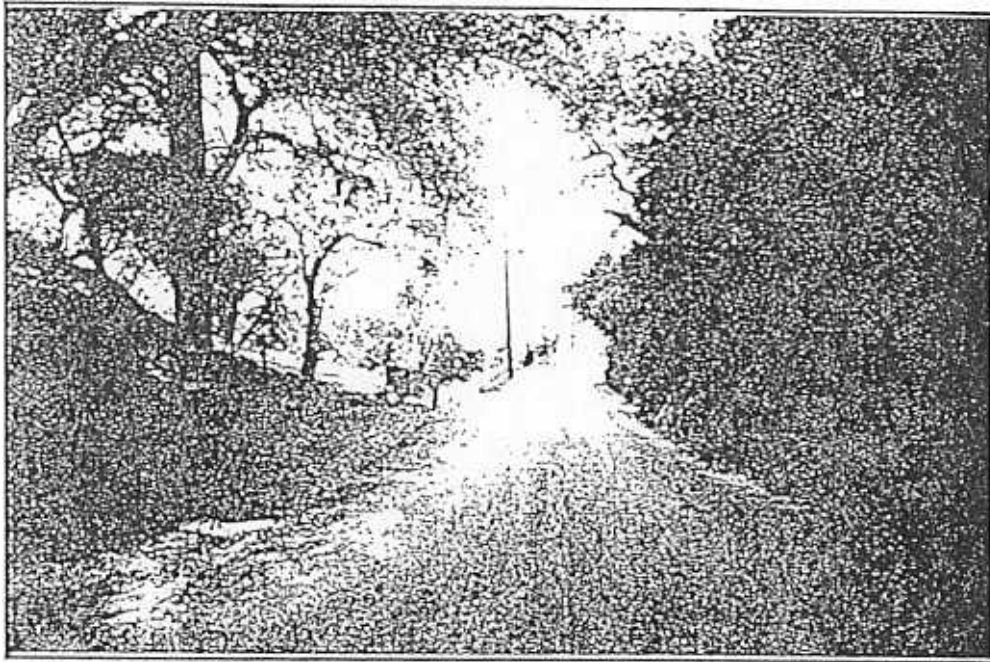
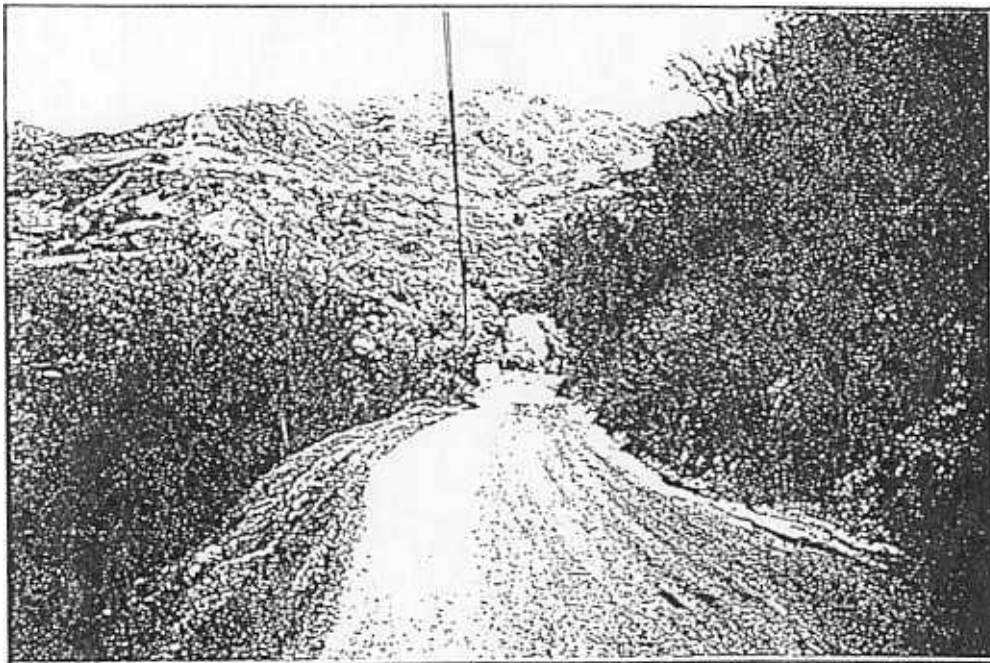


Photo 3 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the north showing steep embankment and private property in and near right-of-way along Hillside Drive.



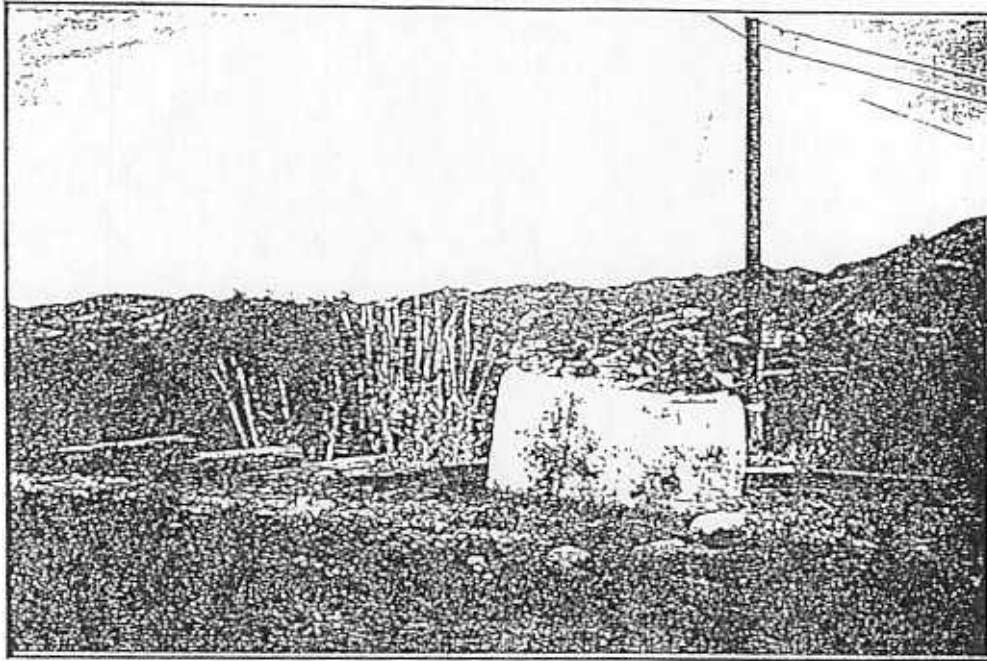
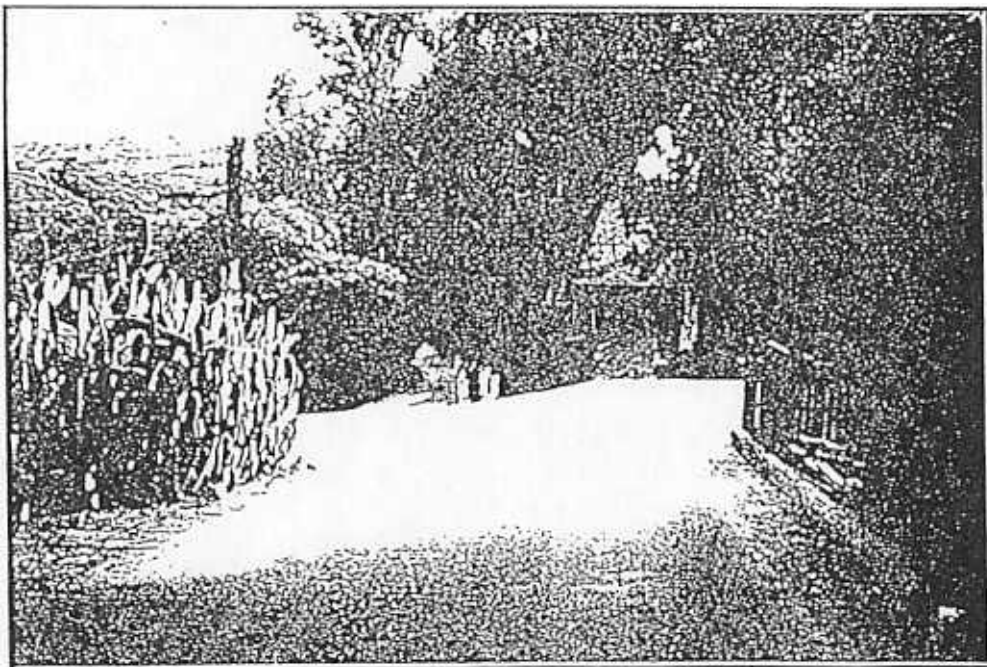


Photo 5 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the north from UTM location Zone 11, 352876 meters Easting, 3775267 meters Northing showing an abandoned water tank in the right-of-way along Hillside Drive.



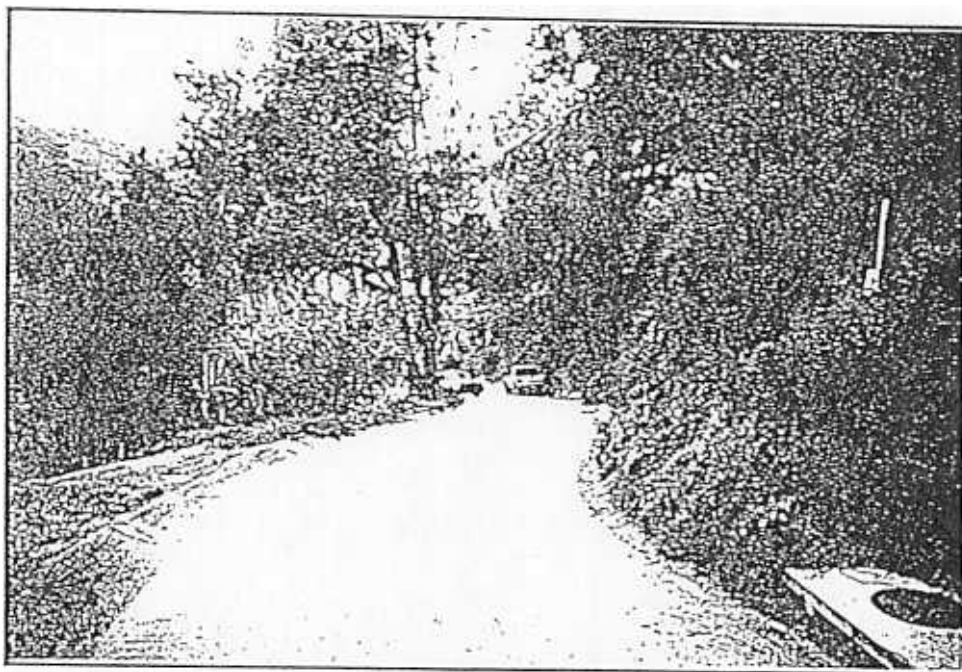


Photo 7 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the south from UTM location Zone 11, 352981 meters Easting, 3775202 meters Northing showing land use adjacent to Hillside Drive.



Photo 8 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the south-southeast from UTM location Zone 11, 353066 meters Easting, 3775045 meters Northing showing concrete retaining wall and redwood fence adjacent to Hillside Drive.

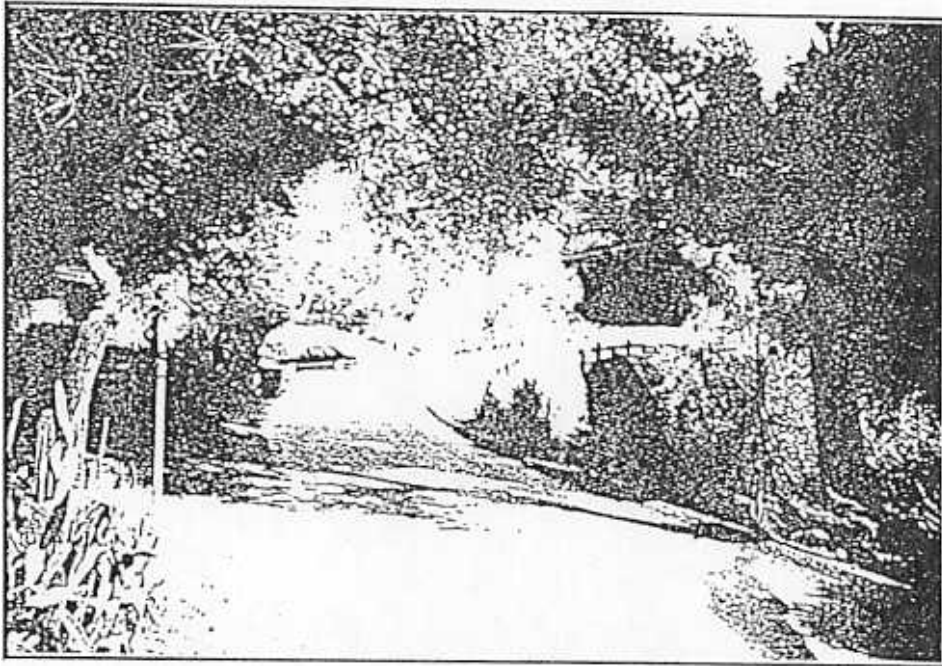


Photo 9 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the north-northeast from UTM location Zone 11, 353089 meters Easting, 3774950 meters Northing showing land use adjacent to Hillside Drive near the bridge over Topanga Creek.



Photo 10 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the east from UTM location Zone 11, 352926 meters Easting, 3774520 meters Northing showing retaining wall adjacent to Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

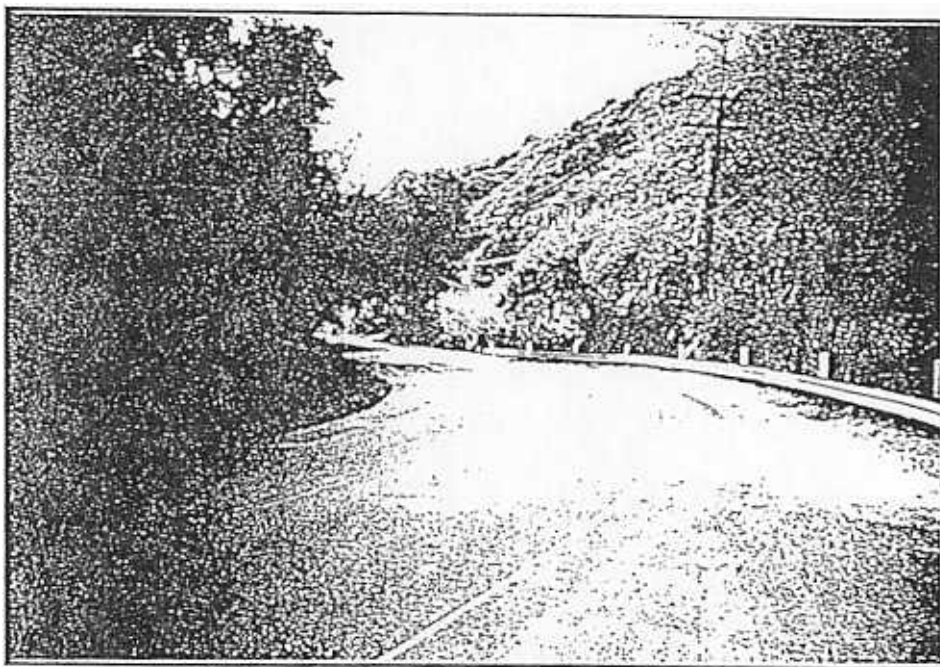


Photo 11 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the south from UTM location Zone 11, 352780 meters Easting, 3774582 meters Northing showing retaining wall (left) and guard rail adjacent to Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

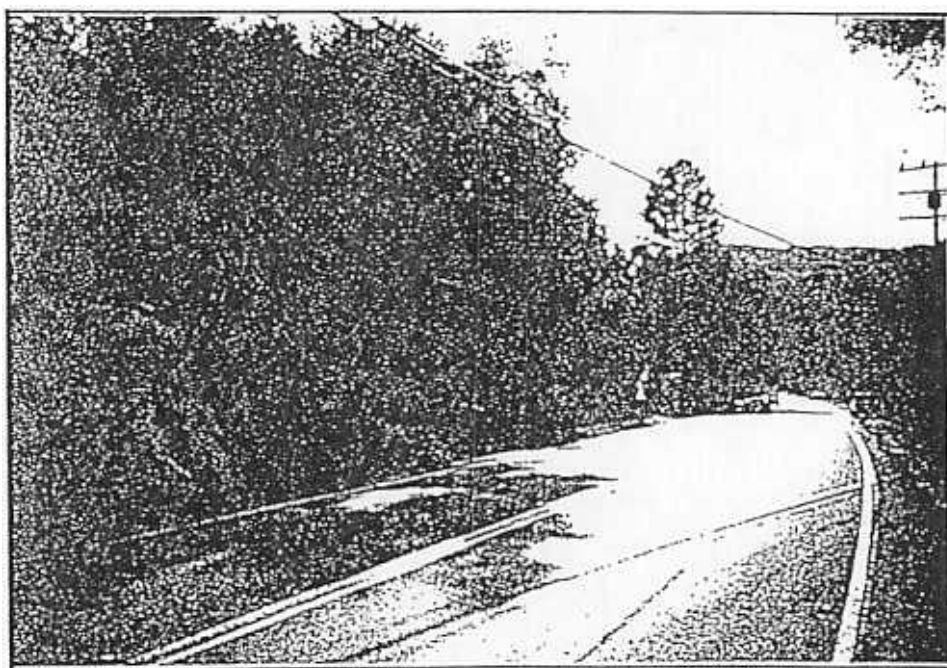


Photo 12 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the south from UTM location Zone 11, 352531 meters Easting, 3774329 meters Northing showing land use adjacent to Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

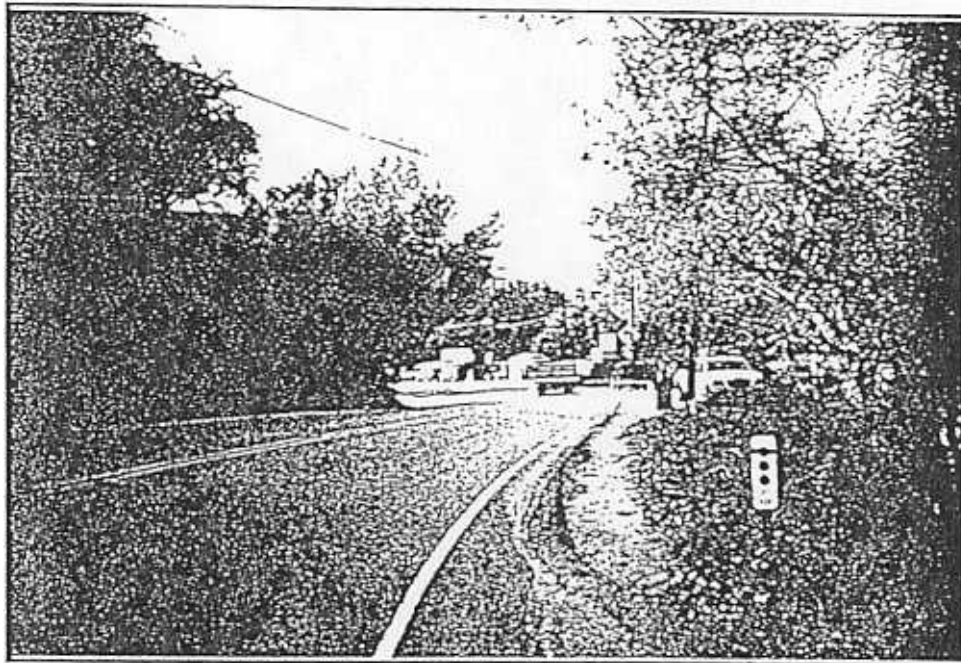


Photo 13 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the west from UTM location Zone 11, 342148 meters Easting, 3773325 meters Northing showing land use along Topanga Canyon Boulevard on the north edge of the community of Topanga.

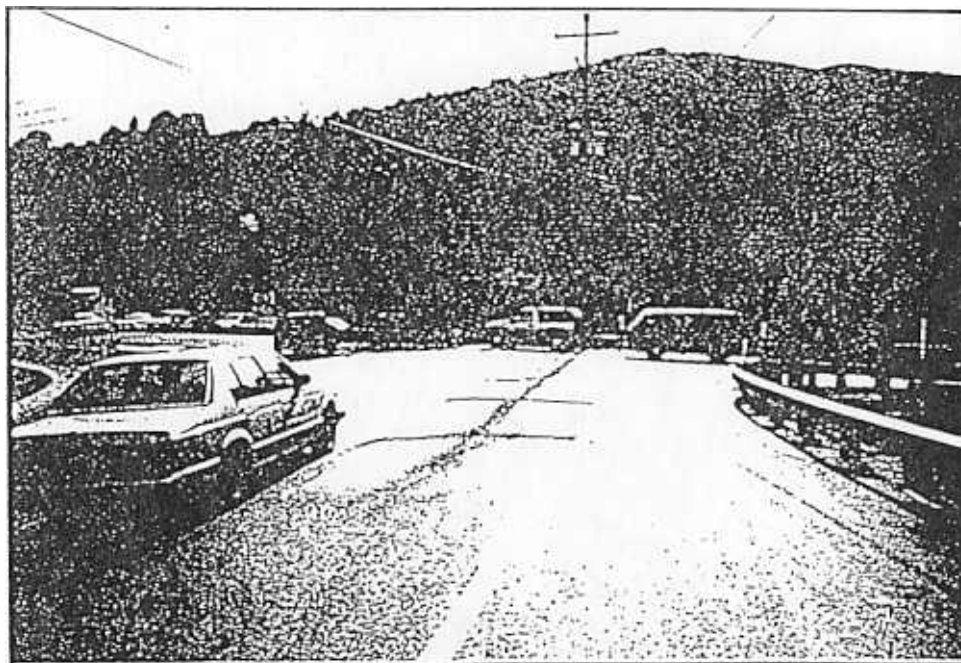


Photo 14 The Topanga Pipeline Investigation. View to the south from UTM location Zone 11, 351998 meters Easting, 377381 meters Northing showing the intersection of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Old Topanga Canyon Road.